

President fails to show vital strategic interest

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) voted today to end American military operations in Libya within 15 days unless President Obama can justify our involvement on the grounds of national security. The non-binding resolution, which failed 148-265, required congressional approval for the mission to continue. The U.S. military presence in Libya has now exceeded 70 days without congressional authorization.

"The White House has failed to justify U.S. military involvement in Libya," said Buchanan. "The last thing we need is another open-ended military commitment that does not appear vital to America's national security. We cannot afford to be the world's policeman."

Buchanan noted that the air war in Libya has cost the United States \$750 million, surpassing initial estimates by Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The Obama Administration has also provided \$25 million in aid to Libyan rebels in an effort to drive Col. Gadhafi's regime from power.

"America is going broke, yet we are devoting huge resources to a military venture with no apparent national security interest at stake," Buchanan said. "Instead of using our tax dollars to conduct bombing raids in Africa, we should be using the money to pay down the national debt and create jobs in America. Now, more than ever, we should be focusing on policies that grow our own economy and reduce the massive federal deficit."

Buchanan recently appeared on the nationally syndicated Fox News program "Your World w/ Neil Cavuto," discussing the need to reassess all foreign aid. The interview can be viewed [here](#)

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